

## Regional Administrator Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

January 16, 2004

### Introduction:

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Dear Regional Administrators,

Commissioner Miller and the DCS Communications Office would like to introduce to you the “Regional Administrator Weekly Wrap Up.” This “newsletter” will contain a weekly summary of Central Office happenings and implementation plan progress, updates from the Commissioner’s desk, and Legislative Team reminders.

You will receive this document at the end of each week in an effort to better communicate with you and your staff on the frontlines.

We hope you find this new communications tool both informative and useful; and we look forward to hearing any feedback or suggestions you may have!

Thank you!

Commissioner Viola Miller  
Carla Aaron  
& Margie Maddux

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### This Week In Central Office

January 16, 2004

- Commissioner Miller began the week by hosting several meetings with the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC). The Commissioner is using this time to discuss her new Brian A. Implementation Plan Team she is creating to address compliance issues and take DCS down a new "Path to Excellence."

*Note: Look for more information next week explaining the team's mission, leader, and members!*

- Throughout the week, Commissioner Miller met with various Legislators as well as Speaker of the House Jimmy Naifeh and Lieutenant Governor John Wilder.
- Commissioner Miller continued her meetings with various contract providers, community partners, committees, caucuses, departmental stakeholders, and Governor Bredesen's Children's Cabinet.
- On Wednesday, January 14, Commissioner Miller addressed the Tennessee House of Representatives at the request of House Speaker Naifeh. This rare invitation for a member of the Governor's Cabinet to address the full House was accepted with great enthusiasm as the Commissioner spoke of the new Departmental vision and future relationship with the General Assembly.

*Note: Please see attached for copy of talking points used in Wednesday's presentation and look for a cassette tape of the speech to arrive in the mail next week. To view photos, please visit [www.state.tn.us/youth](http://www.state.tn.us/youth) after Tuesday, Jan. 20.*

### From the Desk of Commissioner Miller

Dear Regional Administrators,

My goal is to provide a work environment that inspires and allows each of you and your staff to do your best work and achieve the highest goals.

That said, I am making great strides in my efforts to streamline central office management to better support the work you do.

In addition, although this weekly wrap up is intended to provide you with updates and information on Central Office issues – I hope it also provides you with confidence in, and understanding of, ongoing departmental changes.

Sincerely,  
Viola P. Miller, Commissioner

## Legislative News

The second session of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee General Assembly convened last week on Tuesday, January 13, and the DCS Legislative team will provide updates throughout the Legislative session.

### Legislative Team Members:

Steve Hornsby  
Dezanne Russell  
Jude White  
Elizabeth Black

Paul VanderMeer  
Margie Maddux  
Carla Aaron  
Miranda McFarland (intern)

### Legislative Reminders:

#### Help! A Legislator is Calling!

- Don't worry – we are here to help! Our goal is to better serve Legislators with the most up-to-date data. We do not intend to stifle communication on the regional level ... we intend to make it stronger.
- If a Legislator or Legislative staff member calls you with a request for data, information, etc., please contact the DCS Legislative Team for help.
- Please be as thorough as possible when taking the request - tell the Legislator you will see they receive the information **promptly**, and then **immediately** email [Miranda.McFarland@state.tn.us](mailto:Miranda.McFarland@state.tn.us) the following information:

Legislator's Name  
Your Name  
Date of Call  
Nature of Call  
& Any other information you feel is important

## The Week Ahead

### Wednesday - Friday, January 21 – 23

Commissioner Miller will travel across Tennessee meeting with various newspaper editorial boards and staff writers.

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